iii. To provide services in slums and under served areas where services are deficit by outsourcing immunization services.

iv. Support for review meeting; computer assistance at State & district level.

v. Strengthening of cold chain facilities. Necessary funds have been provided to the State to implement the plan.

Funds for AIDS Vaccine

70. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of developing an AIDS vaccine in the country; and

(b) the details of the funds provided by Government to institutions involved in developing AIDS vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Sir, Phase-I trial of Adeno Associated Virus at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune has been completed and subjects are under observation.

Phase-I trial of MVA (Modified Vaccinia Ankara) vaccine has also started at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai.

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is also developing an AIDS vaccine under the Jai Vigyan Science and Technology Mission. A candidate vaccine based on DNA and MVA (Modified Vaccinia Ankara) has been developed for HIV-1 subtype 'C' at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. It is ready for preclinical toxicolgical studies.

A proposal from Emory University and M/s Geovax Inc., USA is under consideration under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme for phase-I human clinical trials in India for development of HIV/AIDS vaccine for subtype C. It is intended to initiate the phase I human clinical trials at NARI, Pune with the mandatory regulatory approvals.

National AIDS Control Organisation (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) and Indian Council of Medical Research signed a memorandum of understanding with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to accelerate efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine appropriate for use in

India. The funding of the ongoing phase-I trials is from IAVI and not from Government funds.

Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India has given Rs. 104.88 Lakhs for the Jai Vigyan Mission and Rs. 90.08 Lakhs to the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme.

Health Infrastructure in Punjab and Maharashtra

71. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Government Schemes to develop infrastructure relating to health in rural areas of Punjab and Maharashtra;

(b) whether any special scheme has been formulated, so far, to provide medical facilities at a cheaper rate in view of economic conditions of rural poor; and

(c) what is the likely salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in Maharashtra are 9727, 1780 and 382 respectively. The numbers in the State of Punjab are 2852, 484 and 117 respectively, as on September, 2005, as per the information received from concerned States. Under the recently launched National Rural Health Mission, it is proposed to consider sanctioning of new Sub-centres as per 2001 population norms, and upgrading the existing sub-centres, including buildings for sub-centres functioning in rented premises.

One of the key strategies of the NRHM is to support upgradation of all Community Health Centres to function as First Referral Units (FRUs) as per the Indian Public Health Standards. The funds for an amount of Rs. 20 lakhs per CHC for 2 CHCs per district have been released, in the current financial year, 2005-06.

It also seeks to strengthen these centres for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). The IPHS for Primary Health Centres and the Sub-centres are also being finalized.